

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1 - 2 (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The connector tool according to Claim [[2]] 21, wherein said fingers form a substantially rectangular connector slot capable of engaging a substantially rectangular connector.

4. (Currently Amended) The connector tool according to Claim [[2]] 21, wherein each of at least two opposing fingers comprise [[a]] an engaging lug in [[the]] said connector slot.

5. (Currently Amended) The connector tool according to Claim [[2]] 21, wherein each of at least two opposing fingers comprise a non-slip grip in [[the]] said connector slot.

6 - 7 (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The connector tool according to Claim [[2]] 21, wherein each finger comprise [[a]] an engagement lug at its end and [[the]] said fingers form a connector slot that engages the connector by hooking the engagement lug around a distal corner of the connector.

9. (Currently Amended) The connector tool according to Claim [[2]] 21, wherein [[the]] said fingers form a substantially rounded connector slot capable of engaging a substantially rounded connector.

10. (Currently Amended) The connector tool according to Claim [[2]] 21 that is made from plastic.

11. (Currently Amended) The connector tool according to Claim [[2]] 21, wherein [[the]] said gripper is tapered from a wider second end to a narrower first end, such that [[the]] said fingers are gradually pinched together as they are drawn into the sleeve.

12. (Currently Amended) The connector tool according to Claim [[2]] 21, wherein the fingers flex outward when projected from the sleeves, and are pinched inward by [[the]] said sleeve as they are drawn into [[the]] said sleeve.

13. (Currently Amended) The connector tool according to Claim [[2]] 21, wherein [[the]] fingers do not flex outward until the connector is engaged in the connector slot.

14. (Currently Amended) The connector tool according to Claim [[2]] 21, wherein [[the]] said fingers do not flex outward, [[the]] said connector fits loosely in the connector slot, and when the fingers with the connector are drawn into the sleeve, the combination of the fingers, the connector and the sleeve forms an interlocking engagement that reversibly locks the connector on to the connector tool.

15. (Currently Amended) The connector tool according to Claim [[2]] 21, further comprising a finger rest at [[the]] said first end of the sleeve.

16. (Original) A method of holding a cable having a connector comprising:
engaging the connector in a connector slot of a connector tool, wherein the connector tool comprises:
a sleeve comprising a first end, a second end and a gripper channel that extends through the first and second ends; and

a gripper slidably mounted in the gripper channel comprising a handle at a handle end, and fingers at a fingers end that is distal from the handle end, wherein

the sleeve and the gripper are capable of sliding relative to each other such that when the handle is slid to the first end of the sleeve, the fingers project from the second end of the sleeve;

the handle is capable of sliding away from the first end of the sleeve to a sufficient degree for the fingers to be substantially drawn into the second end of the sleeve; and

the fingers form the connector slot; and

drawing the fingers into the sleeve so that the connector is reversibly locked onto the connector tool.

17. (Original) The method according to Claim 16, further comprising unlocking the connector by projecting the connector and the fingers out of the sleeve, then disengaging the connector from the connector slot.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 16, wherein each finger comprises [[a]] an engagement lug in the connector slot, and the engagement lug are engaged by indents in the connector when the connector is engaged in the connector slot.

19. (Original) The method according to Claim 16, wherein a end of each finger comprises a engagement lug in the connector slot, and the engagement lugs hook around a distal corner of the connector when the connector is engaged in the connector slot.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 16, wherein [[a]] an end of each finger comprises a plurality of gripping ridges in the connector slot for engaging the connector frictionally.

21. (New) A connector tool adaptable to engage a cable connector, said tool comprising:
- a sleeve comprising a first end, a second end and a gripper channel that extends through said first and second ends; and
- a gripper slidably mounted in said gripper channel comprising a handle at a handle end, and fingers at a fingers end that is distal from the handle end, wherein
- said sleeve and gripper are slidable relative to each other and when
- said handle is slid to said first end of said sleeve said fingers project from said second end of said sleeve; and when said handle is slide away from said first end of said sleeve a sufficient degree for said fingers to be substantially drawn into said second end of said sleeve;
- said fingers being adapted to form a connector slot for engaging said cable connector; and when said cable connector is engaged in said connector slot and said fingers are substantially drawn into said sleeve, said connector is locked onto said connector tool,
- said gripper having a cable slot adapted to accommodate a cable attached to said cable connector when said cable is locked onto said connector tool,
- said sleeve having a channel to accommodate said cable attached to said cable connector.—

22. (New) In the connector tool recited in Claim 21, said cable connector being locked onto said connector tool and having sufficient overlap between the cable slot and the cable channel to permit

said cable to slide with said gripper as said gripper and sleeve slide relative to each other.--

23. (New) A method of holding a cable having a connector comprising the steps of:
engaging the connector and a cable attached to said connector in a connector slot of a
connector tool, wherein the connector tool comprises:

a sleeve comprising a first end, a second end and a gripper channel that extends
through the first and second ends; and

a gripper slidably mounted in the gripper channel comprising a handle at a handle
end, and fingers at a fingers end that is distal from the handle end, wherein
the sleeve and the gripper are capable of sliding relative to each other such that when
the handle is slid to the first end of the sleeve, the fingers project from the second end
of the sleeve;

the handle is capable of sliding away from the first end of the sleeve to a
sufficient degree for the fingers to be substantially drawn into the second end
of the sleeve; and

the fingers form the connector slot; and

drawing the fingers into the sleeve so that the connector is reversibly locked onto the
connector tool and said cable is engaged in said slot.--